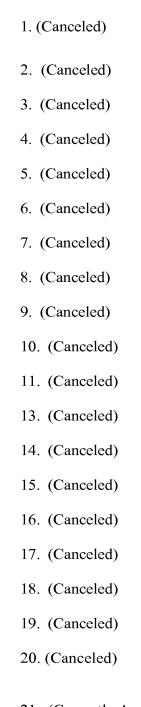
Amendments to the Claims:



21. (Currently Amended) A stent having first and second ends with an intermediate section therebetween, the stent further having a longitudinal axis, and both an unexpanded and expanded configuration comprising:

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- (a) a plurality of longitudinally disposed struts, wherein each strut defines a wave <u>having no straight sections</u> along the longitudinal axis; the spatial frequency of the wave associated with each of the struts being different in a first end region lying proximate to one of said ends in comparison to the spatial frequency of the wave in the intermediate section; and
 - (b) a plurality of links for maintaining the struts in a tubular structure; wherein said frequency is greater in said first end region.
- 22. (Currently Amended) A stent having first and second ends with an intermediate section therebetween and a longitudinal axis, and both an unexpanded and expanded configuration comprising:

said unexpanded configuration comprises a plurality of longitudinally disposed wave-shaped struts <u>each of the wave-shaped struts having no straight sections</u>; and

a plurality of circumferential links for maintaining the struts in a tubular structure at a plurality of locations along said strut, wherein said strut is connected to an adjacent strut by a separate link, each link being axially displaced from any circumferentially adjacent link.